

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 43-103 are pending. Claims 22-42 have been canceled without prejudice, and new claims 43-103 have been added. The SUMMARY and ABSTRACT have been amended to correspond to the claims. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112. There is antecedent basis for each occurrence of the term "the sample flow path."

Applicants submit that claims 43-103 are allowable for at least the following reasons.

Claims 43-53

Claim 43 is previous claim 23 rewritten in independent form, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 43 and claims 44-53 depending therefrom are patentable.

Claims 54-64

Claim 54 is previous claim 25 rewritten in independent form, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 54 and claims 55-64 depending therefrom are patentable.

Claims 65-75

Claim 65 is previous claim 30 rewritten in independent form, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 65 and claims 66-75 depending therefrom are patentable.

Claims 76-85

Claim 76 is previous claim 32 rewritten in independent form, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 76 and claims 77-85 depending therefrom are patentable.

Claims 86-96

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 86 is novel and patentable over the cited art because, for instance, the cited art does not disclose or suggest the combination of features:

- b) a reaction vessel extending from the body, the reaction vessel having:
 - i) a reaction chamber defined by two opposing major walls and side walls connecting the major walls to each other, at least two of the walls defining the reaction chamber being optically transmissive;
 - ii) an inlet port connected to the reaction chamber via an inlet channel; and
 - iii) an outlet port connected to the reaction chamber via an outlet channel, wherein the inlet port of the vessel is connected to the first channel in the body and wherein the outlet port of the vessel is connected to the second channel in the body; and
- c) optics for optically interrogating the reaction chamber, the optics comprising at least one light source for transmitting light to the reaction chamber through a first one of the optically transmissive walls and at least one detector for detecting light exiting the chamber through a second one of the optically transmissive walls.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 86 and claims 87-96 depending therefrom are patentable.

Method Claims 97-103

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 97 is novel and patentable over the cited art because, for instance, the cited art does not disclose or suggest the combination of method steps:

- a) introducing a sample into a device comprising:
 - i) a body having a sample flow path and having a separation region in the sample flow path for separating a desired analyte from the sample; and
 - ii) a reaction vessel extending from the body, the reaction vessel having a reaction chamber, an inlet port connected to the reaction chamber via an inlet channel, and an outlet port connected to the reaction chamber via an outlet channel;

wherein the body further has a first channel connected to the inlet port of the vessel and a second channel connected to the outlet port of the vessel;

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- b) separating the analyte from the sample in the separation region;
- c) forcing the analyte to flow into the reaction chamber of the vessel via the first channel in the body while air displaced from the reaction chamber exits through the outlet channel and outlet port of the vessel into the second channel in the body;
- d) conducting a chemical reaction in the reaction chamber.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 97 and claims 98-103 depending therefrom are patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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